AN

ACCOUNT

Of the PROCEEDINGS of the

CHARITABLE SOCIETY

For Relieving the SICK *and* NEEDY,

At the Publick INFIRMARY in *Weſtminſter*,

From its Firſt Inſtitution in the Year 1719, to *Lady-day* 1734.

THO' the Riſe, Progreſs and Succeſs of this Charitable Society is now ſo well known, at leaſt to the Inhabitants of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, that any Introduction to the Account annually publiſhed by order of the Truſtees thereof, may ſeem unneceſſary, yet as this may fall into the Hands of ſeveral Charitable and well diſpoſed Perſons, who have either not heard of it, or have not been made acquainted with the Methods, by which it was firſt promoted, and has for many Years been ſucceſsfully carried on; It is thought proper to inform them, That in the Year 1719, ſeveral well diſpoſed Gentlemen, deſirous to lay the Foundation of a moſt Beneficent and Extenſive Charity, *viz.* That of providing for ſuch Sick and Needy Perſons, as were deſtitute of proper Aſſiſtance, and oftentimes of common Neceſſaries, after frequent Meetings and due Conſideration, agreed at laſt in Opinion, That nothing would more effectually anſwer the End propoſed, than fixing an Infirmary in St. *Margaret*'s Pariſh (there being nothing of that ſort within the Populous City and Liberties of *Weſtminſter*) and ſupporting the ſame by voluntary Contributions from Year to Year. In order to this it was, in the firſt place, thought neceſſary to prepare a Subſcription-Roll; The Preamble of which was accordingly drawn up and agreed to as follows, *viz.*

WHEREAS great Numbers of ſick Perſons in this City languiſh for want of Neceſſaries, and too often die miſerably, who are not entitled to a Parochial Relief: And whereas amongſt thoſe, who do receive Relief from their reſpective Pariſhes, many ſuffer extremely, and are ſometimes loſt, partly for want of Accommodations and proper Medicines in their own Houſes or Lodgings, (the Cloſeneſs and Unwholſomneſs of which is too often one great Cauſe of their Sickneſs) partly by the imprudent laying out of what is ſo allowed, and by the Ignorance and ill Management of thoſe about them;

We, whoſe Names are underwritten, in Obedience to the Rules of our holy Religion, deſiring, ſo far as in us lies, to find ſome Remedy for this great Miſery of our poor Neighbours, do ſubſcribe the following Sums of Money to be by Us paid Yearly (during Pleaſure) by Quarterly Payments, for the procuring, furniſhing, and defraying the neceſſary Expences of an Infirmary, *or Place of Entertainment, for ſuch poor ſick Perſons, inhabiting in the Pariſh of St.* Margaret, Weſtminſter, *or others, who ſhall be Recommended by any of the Subſcribers or Benefactors, with the Approbation and Conſent of the major Part of the * Truſtees preſent; who are likewiſe impowered to allow ſuitable Relief to ſuch ſick Perſons, approved in the manner abovementioned, as are incapable of being removed from their reſpective Abodes.*

As

* *It is reſolved, that all Subſcribers ſhall be Truſtees of this Charity.*

As the Nature and End of this Undertaking ſufficiently appear by the foregoing Preamble, ſo does the Succeſs of it by the following Account, in which the Number of Perſons Cured, the Sums of Money received, expended and remaining at this time in Bank, are all carefully and juſtly ſpecified.

A Number of the Subſcribers or Truſtees meet every *Wedneſday*, who chearfully and readily give their Attendance without any Expence to the Charity. At theſe Meetings their Incomes and Disburſements are ſtated and dajuſted, the particular Accounts of each regularly kept, and Patients are admitted and diſcharged. There are alſo held four times a Year General Boards, compoſed of ſuch of the Subſcribers, as pleaſe to attend, when Matters relating to the Charity (of greater Moment, than thoſe tranſacted in the Weekly Boards) are taken into Conſideration, and by a Majority of the Members preſent, all Orders have from time to time been made Alter'd or Revers'd as Occaſion required.

For a Courſe of fourteen Years the Subſcribers were almoſt Unanimous in promoting and carrying on the common Deſign of this Charity. About the End of the Year 1732, the Money in Bank afforded them Reaſon to hope, they ſhould in a ſhort time be capable of rendring it more extenſive by removing to ſome larger and more commodious Houſe,than that in *Chapel-Street*, where they have been for ten Years, and the Acceſſion of many new Subſcribers after that time encouraged them (towards the latter End of 1733) to think of carrying that Scheme immediately into Execution.

The Neceſſity of a Removal was unanimouſly agreed on, but concerning the Place where, there was ſome diverſity of Opinions, which at laſt ended in a Separation of a few. This Difference amongſt Individuals (at firſt dreaded as hurtful to the Charity) has prov'd good to the whole, for the Gentlemen, who withdrew themſelves from the *Infirmary* at *Weſtminſter*, have greatly ſucceeded in an Undertaking of the ſame kind, and by that means the ſick Poor have two Places of Relief inſtead of one.

In the mean time the Society, which ſtill continues in St. *Margaret*'s *Weſtminſter*, have the Pleaſure of finding their Subſcriptions and Benefactions Augmented, and more particularly by the late Royal Bounty of our moſt Gracious QUEEN. They have taken a Leaſe of Houſes in *James-Street* in the ſaid Pariſh, exceedingly Commodious both for themſelves and the Poor, which ſhall be under their Care, and they are now preparing every thing neceſſary for the Reception of a much greater Number, than they have hitherto had.

Dr. *Wigan* and Dr. *Cotes* the preſent Phyſicians, Mr. *Pyle* and Mr. *Price* Surgeons to the *Infirmary*, and ſeveral worthy *Clergymen* (who are Subſcribers) generouſly unite their Labours as well as their Purſes to promote this Charity by a careful and conſtant Attendance upon the poor ſick People in the *Infirmary*, each in their reſpective Stations, beſides giving Advice and Medicines to conſiderable Numbers, of Poor upon the Foot of Out-Patients.

Thus this Charitable Undertaking, having been purſued ſo far with ſuch extraordinary Succeſs, encouraged by the Care and Liberality of ſo many Subſcribers and Benefactors, and above all, ſo viſibly ſupported by the Bleſſing of God, we doubt not, but will long continue to promote his Glory, and the Benefit of the Bodies and Souls of Numbers of poor People.

This *Infirmary*, tho' ſituate in St. *Margaret*'s Pariſh, is for the Reception and Relief of the Neceſſitous Sick and Wounded from all Parts. Therefore it is humbly hoped, that the Religious, Virtuous and Benevolent, whoſe Fortunes enable them to do good, will become Subſcribers or Benefactors to a Charity, in its Nature ſo Uſeful.

From

From the Publick Infirmary in *Weſtminſter* for the Sick and Needy, *Wedneſday* the 27th of *March*, 1734.

Under the Care of the ſaid Infirmary from its firſt Erection in *December* 1719, to the 28th of *March* 1733, according to former Accounts		3621
Cured this Year	228	
Diſcharged for Irregularity	10	
Out-Patients diſcharged for not attending, ſuppoſed Cured	55	
Diſcharged Incurable	24	
Dead	37	
Out-Patients then on the Books	48	
And Patients then in the Houſe	30	78
Total in 1733		432
In all		4053

N. B. The Phyſicians and Surgeons give their Advice *Gratis*, every *Tueſday* and *Friday* at Ten in the Morning, to all ſuch poor Diſeaſed Perſons, as think fit to attend.

A General Abſtract of the Account for the Year 1733.

Receipts, *viz.*	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*
Balance of the laſt Year's Account				1805	18	10¾
Subſcriptions this Year	817	3	6			
Benefactions	369	7	2			
Legacies, *viz.*						
Two from Mr. *James Huſtler*.	40	0	0			
				1226	10	08
				Total receiv'd	3032	09 06¾
Diſburſements, *viz.*						
Houſe-keeping, including Beer, Coals, *&c.*	366	3	5			
Medicines Diſpenſed	139	17	2¼			
Houſe-Rent	37	—	—			
Salaries and Wages	72	19	10			
Tradeſmens Bills	42	3	1			
				658	3	6¼
Extraordinaries this Year, *viz.*						
Premium and Intereſt on Six *Eaſt India* Bonds	25	10	3			
Towards the Expence of a Charter (the Proſecution of which is ſuſpended) out of a Benefaction, given for that purpoſe	24	6	—			
				49	16	3
				Total paid	707	19 9¾
Balance in the Treaſurer's Hands on the laſt Audit to the 27th of *March* 1734, incluſive.				2324	9	9¼

Receipts from the Firſt Erection of this Infirmary to the 28th of *March* 1733, incluſive	8634 11 3	
Receipts this Year	1226 10 8	
Total		9861 01 11
Diſburſements from the Firſt Erection of this Infirmary to the ſaid time	6828 12 4¼	
Diſburſements this Year	707 19 9¼	
Total		7536 12 1½
Balance then of the Whole		2324 9 9¼

BRITISH MUSEUM